

VANTAGE



Spring
2009

U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Eastern States

Lower Potomac Unveils the First National System of Public Lands Sign

James Caswell, Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), unveiled the first National System of Public Lands (NSPL) sign at Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) on Thursday, January 8, 2009.

A. Este Stifel, the

Lower Potomac Field Station (LPFS) Manager played a crucial role in bringing this event together.

Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne signed a Secretarial Order to officially designate the 258 million acres of lands managed for multiple-use by the Department's Bureau of Land Manag-

ement as the National System of Public Lands.

"It's time these great lands and resources, whose historical roots date back to the earliest days of our nation, are given their due by recognizing them officially," BLM Director James Caswell said.

"This official designation will ultimately

make it easier for the public to identify these lands and more readily understand the multiple-use mission that Congress has given to the BLM."

As the principal steward of the public lands, the Bureau of Land Management is directed by the Federal Land Policy

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James Caswell got the chance to converse with local residents as well as cooperators at the sign unveiling.



Juan Palma and James Caswell

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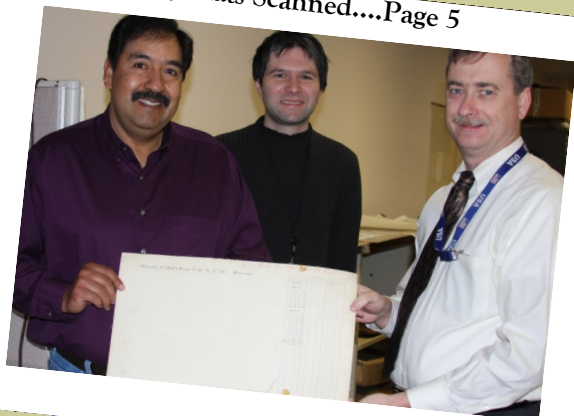
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United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States Office



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Dear Eastern States Colleagues,

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the employees, volunteers, and partners of the BLM-Eastern States for your hard work and dedication to our BLM mission and the seven programs we deliver to the American people. Through your efforts, we are able to accomplish this great work.

Secretary Salazar has challenged each one of us with an ambitious agenda, but one that I am confident the BLM-Eastern States will rise to meet. The Secretary's agenda:

- ◆ "New Energy for America ~ will create a clean energy-based economy that promotes investment and innovation here at home. It will ensure energy security by reducing our dependence on foreign oil, increasing efficiency, and making responsible use of our domestic resources."
- ◆ "Government-to-government relationships with Indian tribes" ~ the Department of Interior is committed to fulfilling the trust responsibility of the United States with Indian tribes.
- ◆ America's Treasured Landscapes ~ we need to protect, restore, and enhance our special landscapes for current and future generations.
- ◆ Our Youth Our Legacy ~ engaging our kids from K-12 in understanding their natural world is a worthy investment of our time. Invoking the many authorities that we currently have to bring more youth to the work force (STEP, SCEP, summer employment to name a few) and harness their creativity and prepare them to lead the next generation of natural resources management.

These agenda points are not all inclusive, but rather reflect the direction that our new Secretary would like to see us move toward. The reason I am so excited is that this agenda overlays nicely with the programs and direction of the BLM-Eastern States.

In the months and years to come, I want the BLM-Eastern States to point to specific tangible energy projects, our work with tribal governments, our new treasured landscapes, and our innovative work with our youth.

Sincerely,

Juan Palma
State Director



33,735 Survey Plats Scanned

John Butterfield,
General Land Office System
Manager

John
Butterfield,
General
Land Office
System
Manager,
and Daniel
Fleming, a
BLM con-

tractor, completed the scanning and indexing of the Secretary of Interiors duplicate set of Minnesota Cadastral Survey Plats. Minnesota was the last state to

be scanned, bringing the total to 33,735 sur-

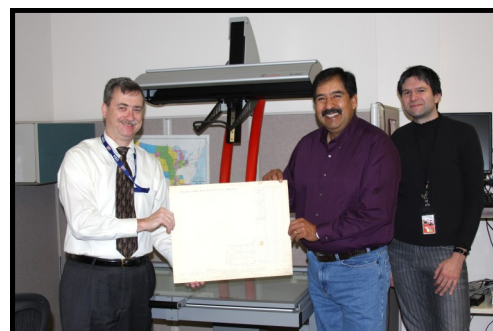


State Director Juan Palma scans the last document

vey plats available online. The project began in August 2004 and was completed in February 2009. These records were scanned to protect and preserve

them, while providing easy access to the public and other Federal and state agencies. Juan Palma BLM-ES State Director, was present to scan the very last document, marking the end of this particular project. Palma said "What a terrific accomplishment! Many BLM-ES employees helped with this journey and to see this many plats

scanned and completed is truly something to celebrate."



John Butterfield, Juan Palma, and Daniel Fleming

...Continued from page 1

and Management Act to manage the public lands for multiple use including recreation, conservation, wildlife habitat, and economic activities such as development of timber and forest products, livestock grazing, and energy and mineral production.



Jeff McCusker, Este Stifle, Theresa Jefferson, Jinx Fox, and John Reffit represented Meadowood at the sign unveiling.

Outstanding Natural Area Dedicated in Florida

Shayne Banks,
Public Affairs Specialist

On Friday, December 5, 2008, the Bureau of Land Management and the Jupiter Inlet Working Group hosted a dedication ceremony for the newest unit of the National Landscape Conservation System - Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area (JILONA). In addition to several local and Federal dignitaries, approximately 200 individuals

from the community came out to show their support and participate in the historic Lighthouse and boat tours.

BLM Director Jim Caswell and Admiral Robert Brannham, Commanding Officer of District

Miami, U.S. Coast Guard, were on hand to help in the unveiling of the new National Landscape Conservation System unit sign for

JILONA. Also participating were, Karen Marcus, Palm Beach County Commissioner, Karen Golonka, Mayor, Town of Jupiter, Jamie Stuve, Executive Director, Loxahatchee River Historical Society, Tom Parterno, Village of Tequesta Council Member, representatives from the offices of U. S. Represen-

Law-110-229 established the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area on south

Florida's Atlantic Coast. The designation created the first Outstanding Natural Area in the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System east of the Mississippi River.

JILONA is one of only three Outstanding Natural Areas within the Bureau.

This 126-acre area is located at the confluence of the Loxahatchee and

Indian Rivers and offers a unique opportunity for conservation.

JILONA contains nationally important natural, historic, and prehistoric resources including the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, a host of special status species, and imperiled habitats, all within the highly urbanized setting of south Florida.



tatives Ron Klein and Thomas Rooney and representatives from the offices of U. S. Senators Bill Nelson and Mel Martinez.

On May 8, 2008, Public

Employees Showcase Cultures During Diversity Month

Scott Swanson,
Public Affairs Specialist

Did you know the world's busiest intersection is in Japan? Or that the Japanese language has more than 2,000 regularly used characters in its written form? How about Shintoism and Buddhism are the two largest faiths on the island nation? What about the fact that Japan is actually a nation of over 3,000 islands?

The Eastern States family learned these facts and more during its annual celebration of Diversity Month on October 30, 2008. Deputy State Director of Natural Resources, Steven Wells, emceed the gathering, welcoming our diverse workforce to a morning of fellowship and festivity.

Intern Stephen Flaherty wowed the crowd with a fascinating presentation on Japan and Japanese culture, having spent two years there conducting missionary work.

Immersing himself in local culture and practices, he is well versed in Japanese custom, is a fluent conversationalist, and writes a bit of the language's kanji form. Stephen shared his ex-

periences representing Israel, Argentina, Paraguay, and other countries were on display with accompanying explanations.

The morning's event wrapped up with a pot-



Many different cultures were displayed during diversity month

perience of living in a foreign country and the cultural differences he came to appreciate and respect. His question and answer session was popular enough for a brownbag lunch continuation of the topic a few weeks later.

Following Stephen's presentation, the crowd dispersed to view and discuss items brought in by staff members showcasing their heritage and homelands. Arti-

luck lunch, again representing numerous backgrounds and cultures.

The day's successes were the result of hard work by the Eastern States Diversity Celebration Committee. Their decorations brightened the room and created an inviting atmosphere.



Stephen Flaherty captivates crowd

Matt Leaves Small Community to Capture Bright Future with BLM

Martha Malik,
Public Affairs Specialist

Matthew Silvey grew up in the small town of Coalfield, Tennessee. This community has only one school, Coalfield High School, a Snack-N-Pac Gas Station and a CNC Grocery Store. It's a quiet laid-back community where everyone knows everyone, with a population of nearly 1,000. After graduating from Coalfield High School, Matt attended Roane State Community College for 2 years and received an Associates Degree in General Science. Later, he transferred to Tennessee Technical University to complete his degree. Matt graduated in December of 2008, with a degree in Geosciences and a major in Geology.

On October 5, 2009, the Associate Field Manager, Tim O'Brien, of the Milwaukee Field Office (MFO), attended the Annual Geological Society of America

meeting in Houston, Texas. While attending this meeting, Tim took the opportunity to promote an employment opportunity at the Rolla, Missouri office. Matthew Silvey pursued the application process for employment with the BLM. Mat was officially interviewed by BLM personnel and the Associate Field Manager. He was offered a position as part of the Federal Career Internship

Program for 2 years with potential for full employment at the end of the internship period. Matt accepted the job and began his new position as Geologist for the MFO on January 18, 2009. So far he has gained a great deal of knowledge about mining on Federal lands and on how the NEPA process works. Matt is definitely a great

asset to the Milwaukee BLM team!

Matt has big plans for his future. He will be getting married in March of 2009, to his long-time girlfriend. With all the upcoming wedding plans, Matt still finds the time to enjoy his hobbies that

include hiking, staying fit, martial arts, and reading. Matt's long term goal is to reach his full performance level in

his new job and gain knowledge and experience in mining and geology. He hopes to pursue a career in mining and geothermal resource management. He looks forward to a long career with BLM and leading the agency into the future.



Matthew Silvey

Jackson Hotshots Have No Time To Cool

Shayne Banks,
Public Affairs Specialist

The Jackson Hotshots kicked off 2009 with a new partnership with USDA Forest Service. This partnership is designed for the purpose of fuel load reduction on National Forests in Mississippi. As part of the agreement, the Jackson Hotshot's have put together two crews, each with up to ten members, who are traveling



throughout Mississippi to assist with prescribed burning. Once the Forest Service identifies the forests which are in critical need of fuel reduction, the BLM

Jackson Hotshots jump into action to complete the tasks assigned.

To date, the Hotshots have traveled hundreds

of miles providing ignition and holding support for over 20,000 acres, with more prescribed burning being scheduled weekly. Most of the prescribed

burning has taken place in areas that are in close proximity to urban interface situations, and in all of these areas the threat of disastrous wildland fire has been reduced. In addition, they have been able to

reduce fire risks where ecosystem risks are excessive, while prevent-



ing low risk areas from deteriorating further. In many of the areas, especially in South Mississippi, they are still dealing with the after affects of Hurricane Katrina.

Fossils Found at Douglas Point

Lucy Kuizon,
BLM National Paleontologist

The Bureau of Land Management- Eastern States (BLM-ES) Douglas Point Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) is located on the east side of the Potomac River in southwestern Charles County, Maryland. Douglas Point SRMA is part of the Nanjemoy



Turritella fossil

Natural Resource Management Area (NRMA) which is jointly managed by the BLM and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The SRMA is open to hiking, wildlife observation, fishing, and beach-combing - which includes fossil collecting. The SRMA and vicinity was host to human occupation over

thousands of years, and BLM has interpreted the historic Chiles Home Site in an area of colonial settlement that began in the 1650's. Today, the beach along this part of the Potomac River is a popular fossil collecting area amongst amateur collectors. Interest in fossil



Fossil of a shark tooth found at Douglass

collecting in Charles County and at the Douglas Point SRMA goes as far back as colonial days as evident from the fossil sharks teeth collected from the Chiles Home Site during archaeological excavations in 2005. The diversity of fossils found at the Douglas Point SRMA include invertebrates, vertebrates and plants.

Pawpaw Patch's a Plenty

Faye Winters,
Field Office Biologist

On December 3, 2008,
134 four-petal pawpaw

(*Asimina tetramera*) were transplanted to the Jupiter Inlet Light-house Outstanding Natural Area (JILONA). Four-petal pawpaw, a long-lived shrub with a very restricted range, is both federally and state-listed as endangered.

There are approximately 1,300 individual plants in 17 scattered populations across a 30-mile stretch of coastal scrub habitats in Martin and Palm Beach Counties, with just 7 populations containing 100 or more plants. Most of these populations are thought to be reproductively isolated from each other, which will most likely continue to deplete existing genetic diversity. This can also reduce population

numbers, as out crossing is the primary breeding system for this species and seedling recruitment is low or non-existent at



Volunteers help to plant pawpaws at JILONA

most sites. The Jupiter Inlet population is typical in this regard with only 4 naturally occurring plants and no known recruitment in the last 15 years. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Plan outlines the need to introduce/augment populations of this species to help prevent its loss. Until now there had been no introduction efforts to establish a large population with repre-

sentative individuals from most of the extant populations.

This project was very much a group effort and a special thanks goes to Dr. Ann Cox for her many years of work on this species and assistance on this project; to the Historic Bok Sanctuary which grew the plants from seed, tracking the parent material and providing demonstrations on the planting protocol; to Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management, who installed over 1,500 feet of irrigation and helped to

coordinate volunteers for the event; and to the Jupiter Environmental Research and Field Studies Academy students

who helped prep the site and assisted with planting. The day finished by mapping each plant in its new location and a final check of each drip emitter. The plants will continue to be monitored

closely for a year until they can be weaned off the drip irrigation.

The project was inspiring for all concerned and further augmentations at JILONA are now being planned.



Volunteers prep site for new pawpaw shrubs

East Lynn Lake Coal Lease Project Moves Forward in West Virginia

Martha Malik,
Public Affairs Specialist

The East Lynn Lake (ELL) Proposed Coal Lease Project in Wayne, West Virginia continues to move forward. Argus Energy LLC (Argus) and Rockspring Development (Rockspring) are the applicants for the proposed coal leases.

The federal minerals lie under lands managed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for flood control, recreation, and wildlife habitat. The rights to the coal underlying the project area were acquired by the USACE through condemnation authority for the purpose of preventing the leasing and mining of the coal. The Water Resources Development Act of 1999, removed the USACE consent authority normally granted to the federal surface management agency. Argus Energy LLC (Argus) submitted a coal leasing agreement

to The Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States (BLM-ES) for 7,639.63 acres bordering a portion of the

access the federal reserves from the south and Rockspring from the north. No surface mining or mining un-

tronic version were distributed to local and Federal governmental agencies and interested parties for them to review and provide comments to BLM.

The Milwaukee Field Manager, Mark Storzer, Environmental Planner, Chris Carusona, Geologist, Jeff Nolder, External Affairs Chief, Terry Lewis and two representatives from Golder Associates attended a public hearing on Thursday, July 31, 2008, in Wayne, West Virginia. They provided the public an opportunity to submit comments on the DLUA/DEIS document. Thirty seven people attended the hearing and seven people spoke. The BLM accepted public comments on the DLUA/DEIS through September 24, 2008, but later extended the deadline to November 10, 2008, due to requests from the public and Congressional representatives to extend the comment period.

Over 300 comments
Continued on page 12...



East Lynn Lake

southern shore of the East Lynn Lake Project in Wayne County, West Virginia. Rockspring also submitted a proposal for 5,449.92 acres that borders a portion of the north shore of the lake. Both companies propose to mine the Federal coal under their respective lease application areas by underground room and pillar methods. This would be accomplished by Argus and Rockspring extending mines from their existing, adjacent underground mines located on private land. Argus would

der ELL or the dam would occur.

Before these tracts can be offered for lease, coal mining issues must be analyzed in a Land Use Analysis Environmental Impact Statement. This document is being paid for by the applicants through a contract with Golder Associates for the BLM. The Draft Land Use Analysis/ Draft Environmental Impact (DLUA/DEIS) was released for public review on June 27, 2008. One hundred hard copies of the DLUA/DEIS and DVD's with the elec-

GPS/GIS Projects Are High Priority for BLM and Local Wisconsin Lutheran College

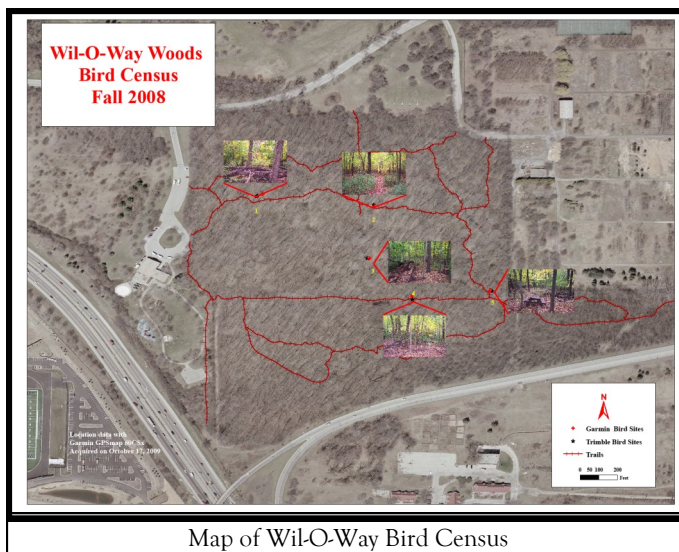
Jim Engstrom,
GIS Specialist

Since the fall of 2004, Jim Engstrom, Milwaukee Field Office, GIS Specialist, has provided global positioning system (GPS) and geographic information systems (GIS) lab support for field studies with the ecology class students at Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC). On November 21, 2008, WLC students, Rachel Wendt, Lauren Montower, Rebecca Verlinden, and Megan Eastman conducted a bird survey at five sites in Wil-O-Way Woods, as part of their Ecology class field studies. Jim

assisted these students with instructions on how

approximately 30 acres of woodland on the west side of Milwaukee that is often used as an outdoor classroom by WLC. Also, in past years, Jim has helped students map invasive weeds, trails, and man-holes as part of their projects.

After the presentation, a new Memorandum Of Understanding was signed by Field Manager, Mark Storzer and Professor Robert Anderson for BLM to continue GPS/GIS technology and mapping training to students at WLC to supplement their existing ecology classroom curriculum.



Map of Wil-O-Way Bird Census

to collect GPS locations for their monitoring sites and then loaded that data into a GIS. The students finalized the project by developing a map of the bird sites for their presentation which was also presented to BLM staff on February 19, 2009.

Wil-O-Way Woods is



MOU signing with Mark Storzer and Robert Anderson

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were received from the public, local and Federal governmental agencies. Concerns were raised for protecting the lake and

dam, water quality, subsidence, royalty payments, and public involvement in the process. A meeting was held in mid December 2008, with

Golder representatives and cooperating agencies to prepare written responses to the comments. All comments and responses will be

in the Final Land Use Analysis/Final Environmental Impact Statement due to be released in April 2009.

Outdoor Enthusiast, Derek Strohl, Joins BLM

Martha Malik,
Public Affairs Specialist

Derek Strohl comes to the Milwaukee Field Office from a diverse past in natural resource conservation and partnership building. He developed his habitat management skills by controlling invasive species and planting trees on private lands for various land management firms and for the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust in southeastern Wisconsin. Derek likes to be outside, whether he is working in his garden, cutting buckthorn, hunting, or taking a walk or bike ride with friends and family.

Over the years working

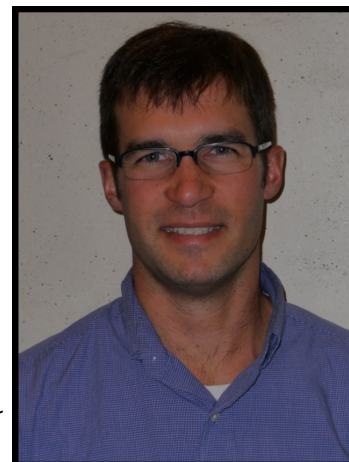
for the Wisconsin Wetlands Association and Department of Natural Resources, Derek built local and regional partnerships involving landowners, developers, educators and researchers, and government agencies to restore wetlands, woodlands, and prairies and to protect endangered species. He has worked with many of the partners who are critical to successfully managing BLM lands and mineral estate, such as state and local wildlife conservation agencies, watershed groups and other non-profit organizations, landowners, and community service organizations and clubs.

Originally from Colum-

bus, Ohio, Derek received his B.A. in Economics and Geology from Miami University and went on to obtain an M.S. in Land Resources from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He settled down in Wisconsin and married Pam, a Wisconsin native. They now live in Port Washington and have two children, Emma, 8 and Sam, 5.

Derek looks forward to supporting BLM's mission and expanding its programs to provide access to energy resources and support multiple uses on public lands. So far, this has included providing drilling applicants with cost-

effective ways to reduce the environmental impacts of their operations, contacting potential new stewards of public domain islands in Lake Vermilion, and locating rare plant species with a graduate student on public domain islands in the Milwaukee River.



Derek Strohl

African-American History Month

Arlene Lenoir,
Management Assistant

To commemorate African-American History Month, employees from the BLM-Jackson Field Office and USGS, went together for a road trip to the

brand new B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center located in Indianola, Mississippi. Upon their arrival, they were greeted by Ms. Sade Turnipseed, the center's Director of Education and Outreach. Both she and her tour director

gave the group brief background information on King's early life in Indianola. They shared in a most enjoyable, historic, and educational tour of the life and times of this legendary blues icon. The museum is a state-of-the-art facility

equipped with video presentations and hands-on interactive modules. It was a fascinating tour which included pictorial displays and a large amount of the singer's personal

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mementos and belongings as well as a collection of his many Grammy awards. The tour also incorporated information and articles depicting the singer's real life experiences before and during the Civil Rights Era. King was instrumental in breaking racial barriers found in the music industry. He opened many blocked doorways which made it much easier for later musicians to follow in

his footsteps. He did this all while retaining his humility and easy-going, approachable style, making him beloved by a throng of fans world-wide.

After this fabulous tour the group had a wonderful southern-style luncheon at the Gin Mill Galleries with live blues entertainment furnished by a local favorite, Alan Jackson. Everyone had an amazing time and many expressed their interest to return to the museum in the near future.

Vantage



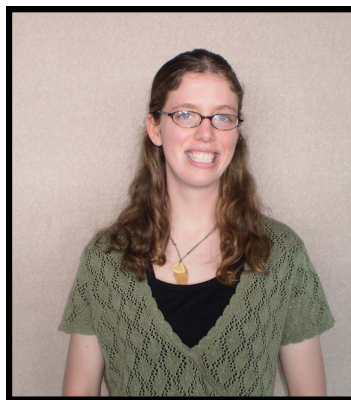
Participants gather at Gin Mill Galleries for a group photo

Lucy Adams Wins Undergraduate Writing Contest

Marika Byrd ,
VOWA Secretary

The Bureau of Land Management Eastern-States (BLM-ES) helped the Virginia Outdoor Writers Association, Inc. (VOWA) recognize Lucy Adams, from Ruckersville, Virginia, a Virginia Tech sophomore, for her first place winning entry entitled "Summer of the Rattlesnake." Adams and another sophomore, Holly Kays from Fairplay, Maryland, were recognized for their excellent outdoor writing skills at the

VOWA and joint Mason-Dixon Outdoor



First place winner Lucy Adams

Writers Association conference in Hampton, VA on Saturday, March 21, 2009. The winners read their articles before the assemblage and received monetary awards during the special luncheon. Employees in External

Affairs at BLM-ES judged numerous essay entries to determine the winners. Terry Lewis, the BLM-ES Chief of External Affairs, attended the event and helped present the winners with their awards.

Lucy Adams is a Wildlife Science major in the College of Natural Resources and Kays is a double major in Natural Resources Conservation and English. Adams indicated that she does not have any specific career goals right now, but is working on it. "Whatever I do, I want to bring people to a better understanding of

how the natural world works, and through understanding, build respect, thereby creating stewards and advocates. Therefore, I'm drawn toward teaching and writing." She adds that a fascination with natural science and an enjoyment in biology would enable her to gain the "expertise to educate and inform, thereby accomplishing my goals by a different route. However, all of these plans are subject to change."

The BLM-ES congratulates Lucy and all the contestants on their terrific essays.

WINNING PAPER:**Summer of the Rattlesnake**

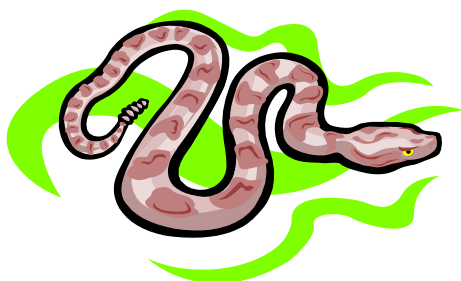
**(unedited submission
By Lucy Adams)**

It had been a battle keeping the kid's flashlights off, but we thought that it had been worth the effort. We had wanted them to have the full experience of the woods at night, to be able to see without being seen by all the life around them. We had been thinking in terms of the smaller sorts of wildlife – and by the end of the walk, we'd already caught a brightly colored red salamander and several of the familiar northern dusksies.

Now, for the walk back, we were doing our best to fully enforce the No-Flashlight rule; perhaps if we were successful we would get the chance to hear a barred owl or other nocturnal bird. That is, if we could enforce silence as well. We were fighting a losing battle on the silence its own accord at the

sound of crackling beside the path.

We quickly pointed our flashlights in the direction of the sound – and illuminated the long sinuous body of a fully



grown timber rattlesnake. The light from our flashlights reflected off his scales, and we could clearly see a lump in the middle of his stomach where he had lodged his dinner. There was a correspondingly large lump in my throat as we walked on, after standing for several moments in awe.

It seemed as though moments like that, moments where the inner workings of nature were suddenly and unexpectedly revealed, were common at Nature Camp. The year I saw the timber rattlesnake was the year I went back to camp to teach, because

I'd gotten too old to go back there to learn. I couldn't bear to be parted from a place I loved so much, and I figured I would somehow manage to develop whatever it was my counselors had that had kept me coming back as a camper for so many years. Never mind the fact that I have a recurring tendency to avoid all person-to-person interactions (too fraught with the danger of awkward silences and social faux pas). I'd deal with that when the time came.

Anyway, what I remember most about my counselors was not their social abilities; it was the look on their faces when they were given the honor of catching a hidden glimpse of the natural world. I still remember the glowing look on our ornithology teacher's face when she found a hummingbird nest lodged in the fork of a



tree at the end of camp. The branch was mottled with lichen, and the nest itself was not much more than a lichen-colored bump with a hole in it large enough to fit my thumb. Maybe. The whole thing was only visible through a tiny gap amidst the profusion of green leaves. I remember filling with excitement as Natalie carefully directed my binoculars in the right direction and the little nest came into focus.

When I went back to camp to teach, I taught freshwater ecology. I taught kids that when you turn over rocks in the stream, you are uncovering a whole world full of alien creatures –

the larvae of stoneflies, mayflies and caddisflies – little bugs that, if they were magnified to human proportions, would be fearsome dragons and deadly wild beasts. ...Continued on page 16

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As it is, a mayfly larvae will fit in the palm of your hand, and if you fill the palm of your hand with water, its \delicate gills will vibrate quickly back and forth to extract all the oxygen from that water supply. I realized it doesn't



take any fine-tuned social graces to place a captured mayfly in the eager hands of a child and to watch his face light up with the same excitement I felt when I finally focused on the hummingbird nest. I'd gone back to Nature Camp because I couldn't bear to stay away from it,

but on doing so I found something as rewarding as discovering a hidden nest smaller than my thumb, or hearing the crackling of last fall's leaves beneath the body of a timber rattlesnake. I discovered the pleasure of listening to the joyful shouts of children who are holding a mayfly for the first time and hearing gasps of wonder from someone who has

never seen a snake in the wild before. I figure that if I can instill that sense of wonder in even a few people, my life will have been worth it.

BLM Eastern States Assists in 74th North American Wildlife Conference

The North American Wildlife Conference is held each year by the Wildlife Management Institute (WMI). The WMI is a professional conservation organization that works to improve the professional foundation of wildlife

management. They are involved in a wide range of issue, policy, research, and educa-

tional efforts. The conference was held in Arlington, Virginia on March 16-21. Work-

tion funding.

This year marked their 74th conference and

BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES) employees were present to provide information about the valuable resources that BLM-ES administers. Registrants were able to come by

the BLM area and view a photo slide show presentation about wildlife habitat improvement on

BLM lands across the country, and collect agency information. The conference was a success, provided many agencies the opportunity to network and share ideas about conservation, habitat management, and best practices. Next year the conference is expected to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, March 23-26.

For more information about WMI please visit: www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org



BLM-ES employee answers questions for inquisitive attendees.

shops included discussions on climate change, managing fish and wildlife, and land conserva-

HRDC Happenings

The Human Resources Development Committee (HRDC) launched the BLM-Eastern States Education Awards Program by granting scholarships to five recipients. Education Awards were given to Holly Fowler and John Reffit in the State Office, Martha Malik and Joan Grochowina in the Milwaukee Field Office, and Cheryl Gettis in the Jackson Field Office. The Educational Awards Program was established to help Eastern States employees reach their personal and educational goals.

Award Recipients



Joan Grochowina began her studies in business administration 3 years ago at the University of Phoenix. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and is continuing in a Masters program to pursue an advanced degree in Education. Joan is currently enrolled in an Instructional Methods and Introduction to Teaching course. Achieving a Masters degree in Education has been her life-long goal. Joan enjoys teaching staff to use GovTrip, and Microsoft Office programs, and her current educational path will help her to be a more effective teacher.

John Reffit is attending the College of Natural Resources at Northern Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. John is working on his Masters degree in Natural Resources. John has a B.S. degree in Outdoor Recreation and an Associate degree in Applied Science. John is honored that he was chosen for a scholarship and he is looking forward to an exciting career in Natural Resources.



Martha Malik is enrolled at the University of Wisconsin in Journalism and Mass Communication. Martha will be taking advanced courses in business and creative writing that promote strategies and techniques for effective approaches to workplace writing. Pursuing her educational goals will help Martha to further her career in Public Affairs and maximize her skills in communications.



Holly Fowler is currently working on a Master's degree in Natural Resources at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Holly has a B.S degree in Communication and one of her long-term goals is to work in the field of wildlife habitat management. Holly is strongly committed to preserving our planet for present and future generations. She is expected to finish her Masters this Fall, and this will enable her to enhance the work that she is doing for Eastern States in Public Affairs and her future leadership in natural resources. She is very thankful to have received this scholarship.

Cheryl Gettis is currently working on her B.S. degree in Business Administration at Mississippi College. She says that returning to school is a "personal goal" desired for quite some time. She is very appreciative to have received this award and says it helped her "immensely". She plans to complete her studies and utilize her degree toward career enhancement.



Your HRDC Representatives

Jackson Field Office
Lower Potomac Field Station
Milwaukee Field Office
Natural Resources
Business Resources
State Director/External Affairs

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How Do I Obtain Mineral Rights Under My Property?

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Most people assume that because they own the surface land, they own what is under the land as well. That is not always the case!

In order to determine mineral ownership, a land owner can check the original land patent (deed) to see if the minerals were reserved to the United States. If the original patent/deed does not contain a mineral reservation, title to the minerals were conveyed along with the surface and are considered to be privately owned. Thereafter, all transactions that affect the title to those minerals are recorded in the local county records. The applicant can go to their local county government and research those records to determine mineral ownership status. If the minerals were reserved to the United States, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has procedures under section 209 of the

Management Act of 1976, for conveyance of Federally owned mineral interests to the surface owner. The objective is to allow consolidation of surface and subsurface mineral

tion shall include the name, legal mailing address, and telephone number of the existing or prospective record owner of the land, proof of ownership, and a certified copy of any

the land

- ◆ a showing that the proposed use complies with state and local zoning requirement, and
- ◆ a non refundable filing fee of \$50.00 and administrative fee of \$2,500.00.

The mineral interest will be conveyed only if it can be demonstrated that there are no known mineral values underlying the property. If BLM determines that there is oil and gas activity or mineral activity in the immediate surrounding area, the application will be denied.

The BLM is responsible for approximately 700 million acres of federal subsurface mineral resources throughout the nation, and supervises the mineral operations on an estimated 56 million acres of Indian Trust lands.

For more information please go to:
www.blm.gov/es

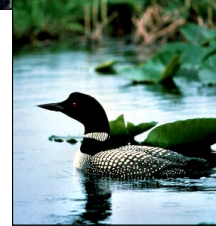


ownership where there are no "known mineral values" or in those instances where the reservation interferes with or precludes appropriate non-mineral development and such development is a more beneficial use of the land than the mineral development.

Applications to obtain mineral rights must be filed in the appropriate BLM District Office. No specific form is required but each applica-

patent or deed with supporting survey evidence. The application must also include:

- ◆ a statement concerning the owned mineral values in the land
- ◆ existing and proposed uses of the land
- ◆ why the reservation of the mineral interests in the U.S. is interfering with or precluding appropriate non-mineral development
- ◆ how and why such development would be a more beneficial use of



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